#### **MEETING MINUTES**

Finance Committee January 16, 2008

# **CALL TO ORDER**

Time – 7:10P.M.

Members in attendance: Chairman Joanne F. Marden, Marge Bradshaw, Harold Wright, Tim Felter, S. Jon Stumpf, Cindy Milne, Richard T. Howe and Mark Merritt.

# **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of November 14, 2008 were approved unanimously 8-0.

#### TRANSFER REQUESTS

A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the following transfer request amounts:

- 1) Town Clerk General Government/Other Expenses in the amount of \$4,385.00.
- 2) Town Clerk General Government/Personal Services in the amount of \$10,798.00.
- 3) Veteran Services General Government/Other Expenses in the amount of \$34,000.00

The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE LIAISON UPDATES**

#### Health Insurance – Harold Wright

Mr. Wright responded to concerns raised regarding union negotiations impact on future health insurance agreements. Time frame issues were also discussed. The possibility of a settlement being reached by 2009 was noted by Mr. Wright. All agreed that would be possible only with the endorsement of a large union. In response to questions regarding retiree health insurance, Mr. Wright stated that a consultant had been hired for that purpose but that the process is on hold until contracts for regular employees are settled. He noted the potential for significant savings but added much work was left to be done. Mr. Wright ended by stating his optimism that a good settlement would be reached.

### TownYard - Dick Howe

Mr. Howe informed committee members of two sites this subcommittee is presently focusing on – one near the Deyermond Ball Field and the other near Greenwood Road off Campanelli Drive. He cited neighbor concerns and issues associated with recapping the landfill as reasons for the delay with feasibility testing. Other issues reported by Mr. Howe included smart growth development of the existing Town Yard and salt storage location. He ended by stating viable long-term solutions were being discussed but that he did not expect a decision to be made prior to Town Meeting.

## Long-Range Financial Planning – Joanne Marden

Ms. Marden reported Proposition 2½ Override issues discussed at that subcommittee's last meeting. She stated she thought one Proposition 2½ warrant article had been submitted for Town Meeting. Committee members entered into a lengthy discussion including issues of warrant article sequencing and wording, co-sponsorship of an override article including the three boards, how budget details could impact the committee's approval or disapproval of an override article and the importance of educating citizens. Mr. Torrisi offered to provide copies of override guidelines to all three boards citing the complex issues associated with overrides. All agreed further discussion between the three boards was necessary and that it is difficult to discuss budget specifics prior to final publications of Town and School budgets.

Dick Howe moved and Tim Felter seconded to authorize including the Finance Committee with sponsorship of an override article. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

## Finance Committee Report Article – Cindy Milne

Committee members discussed cost savings vs. availability issues associated with discontinuing mailings of the Annual Finance Committee Report.

Dick Howe moved and Tim Felter seconded to authorize submitting a warrant article that amends a Town By-Law to read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town By-Laws, Article III, Section 3(a) by deleting from the sixth sentence "and mail to each household in the town" and substituting with "and cause to be made available to the citizens of the town including posting on the Town's web-site"; and to vote to amend the Town By-Laws by deleting Article II, Section 4.1. The motion passed 6-2-0.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Regular Finance Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 20, 2008 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room 7:00 P.M.

#### ADJOURNMENT – 9:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Lynch
Recording Secretary